

September 2023

Grace Notes



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 7300 W DIVISION RIVER FOREST IL 60305 • 708-366-6900 • WWW.GRACERIVERFOREST.ORG

A new and different year at Grace

By Pastor Troy Medlin



Pastor Troy celebrates the new academic year with Grace School faculty and families in Oak Park, August 2023. Photo by Ana Garcia

As I write this the teachers of Grace School are in final preparation mode with school beginning next week. You can sense the buzz in the air. These last couple weeks of August are always filled with anticipation and expectation, a little nervousness and excitement.

Even though I'm not beginning another year of school this year I can't help but be swept up in the promise of a new start and new beginnings. I look back and remember all of the things I have learned and experienced throughout the

years and trust that this new school year holds more new things that I will receive just by being in the building here at Grace.

I'm also feeling that mixture of anticipation and excitement as we look towards another year of faith formation with the start of the program year later in September. This year will be different. We will be worshipping at one service at 10:00 a.m. with opportunities both before and after worship for learning, community,

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I encourage you to dive in and be a part of all that will be happening on Sunday mornings. The pastors, Board of Spiritual Life, staff, and others have been prayerfully imagining what Sunday mornings could look like all summer. I'm so thankful for all of their thoughtful work and planning.

We will benefit from all of it. Directly below this article you will find a tentative Sunday morning schedule. From 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. -- both before and after worship -- there will be places for you to plug in and grow in faith and in relationships with others in our church community.

Beginning on September 17, Sundays will begin with a multigenerational time of song, scripture and prayer which will serve as the opening for the day. Sunday School and Confirmation kids will then spend time with their classes. These 15 minutes at the start of our day will serve as a place for kids and adults of all ages to center ourselves, sing, pray, and laugh together. Music will be led by Pastor Lyle on guitar.

We imagine and hope this will foster relationships across generations, and that is always worth it; think something like a mixture of camp and GLOW.

Sunday mornings will also feature Adult Education, Bible Study, Teen Talk, and more consistent and structured opportunities to get to know one another.

I know that there are mixed feelings as we move to this new schedule. For some there are certainly feelings of excitement. For others; loss. I honor all of those emotions and they are all valid. We need all of you. We are all the body of Christ together. Everyone is needed.

As we move forward into this new season, I know that God is at work in our midst. Christ will continue to give himself to us in word and sacrament and in the presence of each other. After all, we are the clearest signs of Christ's presence with and for one another. God has been faithful and will continue to be. So, come and be a part of all that our life-giving God is up to in this place. You won't regret it.

Fall Sunday Schedule (beginning September 17)

8:45 a.m.

Sunday school
Confirmation
Adult Education
Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

Worship

11:15 a.m.

Fellowship and Coffee Hour
Teen Talk
New Member Class
Health Committee Table (monthly)

Sunday schedule subject to change

Sunday Worship

Sunday, September 3

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.
Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8,
Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday, September 10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.
Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14,
Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.
Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-13, Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.
Jonah 3:10—4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:12-30,
Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, October 1

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.
Ezekiel 18:1-4 & 25:32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13,
Matthew 21:23-32

Meet our newest members

By Amy Claud

It was with great joy that we welcomed five members to our Grace family at the end of May. It's important for them to develop connections and relationships at Grace; you can start to get to know them by reading their profiles below. We hope these will inspire you to reach out and say hello! We are better for their presence amongst us.

Deb Stonich

Deb first became acquainted with Grace through a water color class she and her husband took with Mary Beth Buschman, our former parish nurse. Her husband, Tom Kay, then joined Grace. After his recent death, Deb decided to join Grace as an associate member and also maintain her connections with the Congregation of St. Joseph in LaGrange. She works for Great American Insurance Corporation as a Claim Technical Director in the Environmental and Asbestos Claim Unit. In her free time, she enjoys reading and baking. Deb lives in Forest Park.



Benz Amataya, Dave Kupiers, Grant and Colin

Benz and Dave found Grace Church through Grace School when their son, Colin, transferred into our middle school program this year. After getting to know the school community, they decided that Grace would be a wonderful church home as well. Benz grew up in Bangkok, Thailand, and Dave hails from Michigan. They lived in Thailand for the early years of their marriage, and both of their children were born there. Before joining the world of arts, Benz worked in business. Dave is an accountant. They currently reside in Oak Park.



Do you know someone who is interested in joining Grace Lutheran?

The next New Members class begins in October. Reach out to Amy Claud at amycclaud@gmail.com for more information.

Appalachia Service Project

During the summer, our youth had the opportunity to spend a week serving, worshipping and experiencing fellowship in Appalachia. We are thankful for Pastor Troy and Scott Street, who chaperoned. The service projects involved building and renovating the homes in the local communities they visited. These are some of the precious memories they bring back:

Anne Claud:

"I loved connecting with the family I was serving and seeing God's love and presence through that connection."

Ryan Koehne:

"The ASP trip has helped me strengthen my faith through God by helping those in need of service. I really enjoyed my first year at ASP because it was a new experience for me and each day was better than the previous!"

Peter Armstrong:

"ASP gave me a new mindset. It made me feel more connected to myself and more aware of my connection to God."

Andrew Henderson:

"I enjoyed seeing how happy the homeowner was when we showed him the finished product."

Sophia Augustine:

"Overall, this mission trip was a humbling experience, and for me it was a reminder to not take basic things for granted."

Sammy Armstrong:

"I really enjoy getting to know everyone better and seeing our work make someone's life a little better."



Grace youth, Pastor Troy, and Scott Street at the ASP mission trip. July, 2023.

Benevolence Committee news

This information is provided by the Benevolence Committee to give you a better understanding of our ministry partners. We support these organizations with dedicated benevolence dollars due to your faithful stewardship. We also pray for them throughout the year. These are the organizations for whom we will pray during the services in September:



CONCORDIA

At Concordia University Chicago has distinguished itself as a Christian university in the Lutheran tradition that stands on faith and academic excellence. Their mission is to provide an atmosphere that invites a diverse population to earn a quality Christian college education based on truth, integrity, honor, and the deep Lutheran roots that Concordia University Chicago was founded on in 1864. Grace Lutheran Church's support helps Concordia maintain their distinctive Lutheran identity, advance scholarships, uplift the next generation of Lutheran church workers, and keep truth, freedom, and vocation at the forefront of their education.

<https://www.cuchicago.edu>



MAYWOOD FINE ARTS

Maywood Fine Arts (MFA) provides affordable quality arts and fitness education for children and families in Maywood and surrounding communities to enrich and transform their lives. MFA Art & Fitness Out-of-School classes and individual lessons include dance, tumbling, karate, music, drama, visual arts, and a youth leadership program. They are committed to providing children from diverse, low-income communities with quality instruction and expanded opportunities to learn and thrive through the arts.

<https://maywoodfinearts.org>



CCE (CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION)

The CCE serves children and adults in Martin, Slovakia, including Ukrainian refugees, with the goal of renewing their trust towards the church and seeing people's interest in Christian values restored. Mission through education has proven to be the most effective mission tool to impact not only the lives of students themselves but also their families, the staff and those around them. By creating a safe and welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels accepted regardless of their background, the seed of Christ's love can be planted in the hearts of many. The Christian fellowship experienced at the CCE can teach them to become highly engaged members of their community, mindful of the needs of others.

<https://www.cce.sk>



CHICAGO CORNERSTONE ACADEMY

Students who come to Cornerstone Academy talk about having ambitions they would like to achieve. Yet few have the real prospect of realizing ambitions because they lack clear life plans for reaching them. Some lack motivation, and some are directionless. About 25% of all US high school students do not finish their high school diplomas on time. Some of these students become dropouts. Students that drop out earn far less, are in trouble with the law far more often and live shorter lives. Cornerstone Academy is a safety net school, catching these students and helping them finish their high school diplomas. Not all, but many of the students at Cornerstone Academy gain increased determination to finish things: they earn diplomas, they find jobs (a requirement for graduation), they learn to seek the Lord, and finally, as hope would have it, they find well-grounded happiness.

<https://www.cornerstonechicago.org>

Grace School over the summer

Ana Garcia



“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10

That is the theme verse at Grace Lutheran School for the 23-24 academic year. We look forward to nurturing the gifts of each one of our students. Grace is welcoming over 55 new students this fall, which brings our enrollment to 209. It is such a blessing from God and a responsibility that we do not take lightly. We encourage you to follow Grace on Facebook and Instagram as we will be highlighting several new families and students throughout the first month of school.

If you take a glance at our staff page on the school website, you will notice several changes. One of these changes is that our wonderful sixth grade teacher, Kristi Underhill, accepted the new position at Grace of assistant principal and junior high math teacher for this 23-24 academic year. We are so happy to continually be blessed by her amazing skills and talents. Another beloved faculty member, Sarah McCabe, has taken on the role of athletic director in addition to her P.E. teacher and coach duties. Congratulations to them both! They each have such a heart for this school. We know that they will flourish in their new positions.

In addition to new roles, we have new staff. Miss Iona Bodem was recently hired as our art teacher. She graduated in May with an MA in Fine Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. We are excited about what she will bring to this position. While we were saddened to learn that Ms. Cullen is taking a new position, we thank her for her service to Grace and wish her all the best in her new role. We are also pleased to announce that we have hired a new second grade teacher: Ms. Katrina Lyles comes to us with 13 years of teaching experience, including six years in second grade. More information on new faculty will be coming soon.

Over the summer, we stayed busy representing Grace at a concert in Scoville Park, making donuts at the Oak Park Farmers' Market, and welcoming our new families at the New Family Get-Together.

We were pleased that several new families attended each of these events, excited to be a part of the Grace community. In addition to staying busy socially, our staff has kept busy giving the school a little makeover! New carpet was installed in the elementary level floors, and it looks beautiful. If you're in the building, we encourage you to check it out in person.

Our admissions events will start back up in October with First Look Friday. Our upcoming dates are October 13, October 27, November 10, and December 8. This is a drop-in event, but people are encouraged to sign up ahead of time to get a more personalized experience. For more information, we encourage you to visit the Grace School website under “Admissions”.



Grace School stand in Scoville Park. July, 2023. By Ana Garcia.



Grace School students volunteering at donut-making event. July, 2023. By Ana Garcia.

Bach Cantata Vespers resume on September 24

By Gwen Gotsch

Grace Church's Bach Cantata Vespers begins its 53rd season on Sunday, September 24, with *Bringet dem Herrn Ehre seines Namens* (Bring to the Lord the honor due his name). The preacher is Pastor Stephen Bouman, son of Paul Bouman, former music director at Grace who together with Carl Schalk, founded the series in 1971. The prelude at 3:45 p.m is Francis Poulenc's Organ Concerto in G minor, performed by Nicole Keller of the University of Michigan with the Bach Cantata Vespers Orchestra.

People come to these services from all over the Chicago area; others participate via livestream. Many of the worshipers are Grace members, others are not. Why do they come to these Sunday afternoon services? Why do we pay so much attention to music that is old and frankly, rather obscure? Why is the Cantata series still going strong after more than 50 years?

The cantatas that will be presented from September 2023 through May 2024 are mostly from Bach's first year of composing at the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany. Three hundred years ago, on May 30, 1723, the First Sunday after Trinity, J. S. Bach, the newly appointed Cantor, led Leipzig's musical forces in a performance of Cantata 75, *Die Elenden sollen essen*, a two-part, fourteen-movement work designed to demonstrate that the powers-that-be in Leipzig had made the right choice in hiring him.

A local paper reported that the music was received "with good applause," though the actual clapping of hands is unlikely since the performance took place during a church service. For the composer, 38 years old, it was the start of a remarkable period of disciplined, creative, furious output. He would present approximately 60 cantatas in the next 12 months, all of them his own compositions. Most were newly composed for the St. Thomas and St. Nikolai churches in Leipzig; some were cantatas composed at earlier places of employment but revised and repurposed. And when this first yearlong cycle of cantatas was completed, he began a second one.

Each cantata is a unique work; Bach makes new and original decisions at every turn, exploring different possibilities, forms, sonorities, theological ideas and human emotions.

Can we hear this music as Bach's 1723 audience heard it? Many, many things have changed in 300 years: everything from the map of Europe to the frequency of the pitches to which we tune our modern instruments. Women are now allowed to sing in the choir, and the availability of recordings has revolutionized our music-listening habits.



Grace Cantata, 2023. Photo by Lucy Bouman

We experience time and distance differently in the 21st century. Our churches are heated, the musicians play from iPads, and preachers no longer preach for an hour at a time. Most of us can't pay attention for that long.

Yet some things *are* the same, especially for church-going Lutherans. As in Bach's day, our worship services follow the rhythms of the church year; Bach's cantatas were composed to follow the cycle of the liturgical year and relate to the gospel lessons appointed for specific occasions. Many of the cantatas in the 1723-24 cycle begin with a dictum, a quote from the Bible and go on to explain the scripture lesson and apply it to daily living, a shape similar to sermons or daily devotions we use today. And cantatas conclude with a prayerful response in the form of a familiar hymn. Bach's Lutheran theology is familiar as well: God's mercy and forgiveness are ours, not because of anything we do but through God's free grace.

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Like 18th century Leipzig citizens, we need frequent assurance of God's grace and comfort. Like them we struggle, suffer, rejoice and despair. Bach's cantatas use the power of music to remind us of our human condition and reassure us that God is faithful.

So join us at Bach Cantata Vespers this fall — and not just to hear great music performed by skilled musicians. Come and worship and be reminded of what it is to be wrapped in God's grace.



September 24, 3:45 p.m.

Bringet dem Herrn Ehre seines Namens, BWV 148
Bring to the Lord the honor due his name

The joyful opening chorus of the cantata invites worshipers “to praise God in the beauty of holiness,” a brilliant beginning to our 53rd season of Bach Cantata Vespers—we hope you'll join us.

3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture

Mark Peters, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

3:45 p.m. Orchestral/Organ Prelude

Francis Poulenc: Organ Concerto in G minor

Nicole Keller, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, organist

4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers

Stephen Bouman, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois, homilist

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy: Wie der Hirsh schreit (first chorus)

Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra
Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello, conducting
Sarah Ponder, mezzo soprano
Ace Gangoso, tenor

5:30 p.m. Post-Service Reception in Fellowship Hall

Celebrating the beginning of our 53rd Season

For the complete schedule of cantata services for 2023-24 visit BachVespers.org. While you're there, learn more about Bach's first cycle of cantatas in weekly blog posts by Mark Peters of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. Peters will present the pre-service lectures during the upcoming cantata season.

Adult Education schedule

Sept 24: Pilgrimage

Sharenda Barlar, Spanish professor at Wheaton College, describes her experience leading students on the Camino de Santiago. She speaks internationally on the idea of recreating pilgrimages.

Oct 1: Theological Influences

Troy Medlin, Grace Associate Pastor, shares his theological influences with the congregation.

Find the complete Adult Education fall schedule at www.graceriverforest.org>faith formation>adult education

Welcome Back to the Grace Church Library

Summer is such a great time to explore new places, find fresh viewpoints, reminisce while visiting favorite locations and create personal adventures along the way. As fall approaches, we gather again for school, Sunday fellowship and reconnection with our familiar Grace routines. The library has been quietly waiting for your return.

- Besides the new books we have ordered, you will find the selections for the Religion in Literature season.
- Even if you don't join this discussion group, the books are available for you to check out.
- The Bach Cantata season will begin again, and the library is a great resource for books about the man and his music.
- Adult Education sessions will cover a variety of topics this year. The library will keep track of the topics and provide additional material if you wish to dig deeper. Check the display in the Atrium case or the bibliography posted in the library.
- If you are new to Grace, the library can provide information about the history of Grace; explaining our heritage and evolution as a congregation.

The atmosphere is still cozy, the chairs are comfortable and the books on display will intrigue your imagination. Stop in before or after Sunday Service and take a deep breath.

Don't forget to check out your book before you borrow it!





Save the date: October 1, 4:00 p.m.

Fun fact: by the time you get the next issue of Grace Notes, Oktoberfest at Grace will be behind us! That is why we are taking this opportunity to remind you to stay tuned and not miss any details. Tickets and chances to volunteer at this fun community tradition will be available at Grace Links soon. We hope to see you there!

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
7300 Division Street in River Forest
708-366-6900



Early Childhood, ages 3 to 5

- Full-day kindergarten
- Half-day and full-day options for ages 3 to 4

Elementary & Junior High, Grades 1 to 8

- Strong academic curriculum
- Individualized attention
- Music, art, and sports teams
- Before and after-school care available

**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

FAITH



ACADEMICS



CHARACTER

**First Look
Fridays**
2nd & 4th
Fridays of
each month.
Call the office
at
708-366-6901

Refugee Ministry update

We are eager to create a new co-sponsor team to prepare for our fourth refugee family. If you are interested in joining the effort or need more information, please contact Linda Street kentuckystreets53@gmail.com

- We continue to visit our existing sponsored families as they are able. Linda Martens and Linda Street took the Azizi mom and girls to Brookfield Zoo for a day of animals, butterflies, carousel rides, water play and “candy cotton.” The two boys in the Abul Boshor family and two of the Azizi boys went with two men from our volunteer teams to watch a Chicago Fire soccer match. The Safari family is no longer interested in a co-sponsor connection. They have family in the city and are moving ahead independently. (These extra activities are not coming out of the Refugee Ministry budget.)
- Our work this summer has focused on offering support for the huge influx of migrants we have identified as “new neighbors”. Stories from the city are mixed – some wonderful and some reflecting gaps in the system. However, the amazing support from faith-based communities, Greater Chicago Food Depository and others is making a difference in the lives of these desperate people. The Grace contribution is connected to our partnership with the Harmony Food Pantry. Every time we are open, we meet customers signing in with passports or IDs from Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras or other places. They speak little or no English and have not much more than the clothes on their backs. Grace donations have paid for sturdy backpacks (a temporary “home” as they are moved from place to place). Also included are towels, hygiene supplies, first aid kits, underwear, shorts and t-shirts and monthly supplies for the women. To date we have given away over 40 backpacks for adults and 10 for children.

If you wish to be involved in any of these ongoing parts of the Refugee Ministry, please contact Linda Street (email above). If you are able to donate financial support, write a check to Grace with “Refugee Ministry” in the memo line or donate online via the Grace website. And of course, we welcome your prayers. We are watching the Holy Spirit in “real time” and it is very exciting!

Discipleship: The *being* and the *doing*

By Julie Hinz



Fall seems like the perfect time to begin exploring our life of faith together — it brings the beginning of the school year, the startup of Sunday School, Bible Classes and Adult Education. Over the next months, we will be working through

the concept of discipleship and what that means to each of us as people of faith, what it means at Grace, and what it means for our lives in the world.

Most of us understand a disciple to be any learner who follows a master teacher, or “one who wants to be like another.” As

Christians we learn about the 12 disciples and how they followed Jesus — from place to place, from event to event, from their invitation into relationship with Jesus all the way to their own deaths. During those three years they did not preach or heal, they did not invite any into discipleship or train new believers. Their job was to learn, to be in relationship with God and absorb all they could each day.

It has become easy to reduce our discipleship to the doing. We know we are to feed the poor, clothe the naked, tend to the sick, house the homeless. We serve on committees, we lead worship, we provide resources to those in need, and build each other up. These are all wonderful things and worthy of our time and attention. But consider this: the great commission — to go, teach, baptize — was given after the disciples spent three years learning and experiencing God through their relationship with Jesus.

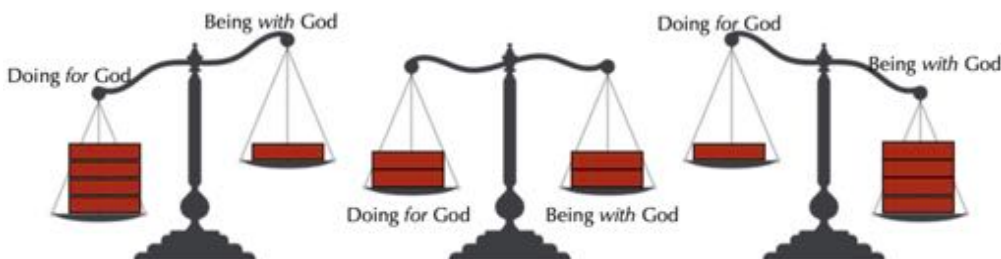
“How do we not abandon our doing but balance it with our being in relationship with God so that both are life-giving and reflective of mature discipleship?”

The beginning of true discipleship is not the necessarily the jumping in and doing what you think God wants. It is the intentional decision to spend time with God, to let God lead you to know yourself and His will for your life. It is the intentional building of your relationship with Jesus so that you become more like Him in your attitudes, focus and, ultimately, behavior.

As I sit amid the blessed community that is Grace I see many familiar faces — the faces of knitters, cooks, teachers, workers, singers; the faces of people who jump in readily to help do the work of the church.

Being born and raised a Christian and a Lutheran, I am one of those people. But do I spend as much time being with God as I do doing for God? I have discovered my life is out of balance. I, like many, have forgotten the reality that discipleship’s first step is being with God, listening to God, being in relationship with God.

The reality of this is a bit distressing. How do we balance these things? How do we not abandon our doing but balance it with our being in relationship with God so that both are life-giving and reflective of mature discipleship? This is our challenge, and we will explore this further as we move into the coming months. I encourage each of us to think about our own discipleship journey; how we understand God’s will for our lives, how we act on that understanding, and how community and depth of faith play a role in how we live our lives as disciples of Jesus.



GriefShare Seminar Series

A new offering of the 13-week GriefShare seminar series begins on Thursday, September 21. The sessions will be held on Thursdays, September 21–December 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the church library. Note that on September 28 and October 26 we will gather in the conference room.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. Whether you are grieving the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, other family member, or a friend, and no matter what the cause of your loved one's death, you will find encouragement, comfort, and help by being with others who understand what you are feeling. The course covers the topics below and includes video sessions, online materials, and a workbook.

- September 21: Is This Normal?
- September 28: Your Grief Journey
- October 5: Loneliness & Sadness
- October 12: Self-Care
- October 19: Fearful & Overwhelmed
- October 26: Anger
- November 2: Regrets
- November 9: Grief & Your Household
- November 16: Grief & Your Friendships
- November 23: no meeting (Thanksgiving)
- November 30: Questions for God
- December 7: Stuck in Grief
- December 14: Hope & Resilience
- December 21 or December 28 (TBD): What Do I Live For Now?

To register, go to GriefShare.org, click on Find a Group, and use the River Forest zip code (60305) to locate our group; call 708-366-6900; or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org. To get further information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720. You can join the seminar series at any point, and all are welcome.

Grieving the death of a spouse?

Or do you know someone who is?

Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

You can find help at

The Loss of a Spouse

You'll learn

- practical advice from others who've been there
- what to expect in your grief
- how to cope with life without your spouse
- why it won't always hurt this much.

Sunday, September 17, 2023, Noon–2:00 pm
Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 West Division, River Forest
This seminar is co-sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and St. Giles Catholic Church.

A light lunch will be served.



To register, call 708.366.6900 or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Grace Notes is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church and School, 7300 Division St., River Forest, Ill. It is mailed to Grace members, parents of students at Grace School, and friends of the congregation. This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, August 25, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than September 2. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The October issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on September 27. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, September 20. Send news to bklaus@graceriverforest.org. Please limit submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

FELLOWSHIP

Yoga with Ackli

This group will resume activities on Thursday, September 7. Class is held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. You do not need prior yoga experience. Classes are gentle and focused on alignment for strength and flexibility. Bring a yoga mat and a beach towel or blanket. Please dress comfortably. If you have questions about class or yoga in general, please call Ackli at 708-516-2701.

Grace Notes mailing crew

This newsletter crew will be at work again on Thursday, September 27, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact Marlene Hallman (708-562-5476) or just come!

Cornerstones

Bible study for seniors on Wednesdays. Join us in the church library for fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study at 10:00 a.m. Contact Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org for more information.

Moms of Littles

Mothers with children of any and all ages, infants through teens, meet at 6:30 p.m. at Grace on the first and third Thursdays of the month for community and support. Contact Sabrina Maggio (sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com) for updates.

Theology on Tap

Community and monthly conversations about faith and life. This group will gather again on September 22. Contact Pastor Troy for more information or to be added to the email list. (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org)

Dads of Grace

This group of Grace dads meets monthly for fellowship and conversation. Email Justin Hartung (jhartung@gmail.com) for updates.

Knitting Group

The knitting (and crocheting) group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the church library. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

Retired Leaders

This group of retired Christian men and women in former leadership positions in the church or community meets once a month on Tuesdays. For more information, contact Gwen Gotsch at (gwengotsch@gmail.com).

Finding Hope

This group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is September 8 in the church library. Contact Judie McDonnell for more information (judie.mcdonnell@att.net)

Moms of Teens and Young Adults

The new fellowship group Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults fosters community among women whose children are growing up into adulthood. Contact Jessica Bullock (jsbullock23@gmail.com) to be added to the group's email list.

Men of Grace

The Men of Grace group will meet again on September 23. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet September 15, 7:30 p.m. to discuss Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, led by Steve Peterson. Two copies are available for checkout in the church library. Linda and Bryan Bernard will host in their home at 1840 N New England Ave., Chicago. To be added to the email list, please contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu. All are welcome!

BUILDING HOURS

Fall building hours: **Monday through Friday:** 7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. **Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and weekday evenings for scheduled activities and events.

PASTOR'S EMERGENCY PHONE

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care on weekends, or when the Grace building is closed.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary. Use the sign-up sheet at the reception desk in the atrium.

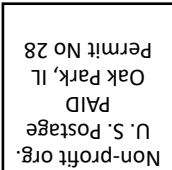
PRAYERS

We rejoice with **Annie Madelyn Hoppe** and **Charlotte Jane Hoppe**, children of Brian and Nichole Hoppe, both baptized on August 13.

We grieve the loss of **Judy Kerns**, a long-time Grace member who died on July 27.

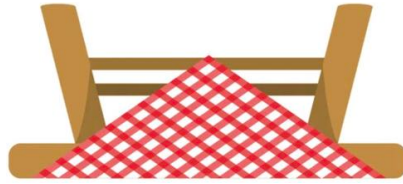
Prayer list: the weekly prayer list can be found in the worship bulletin on Sundays. Contact Esther Armstrong (earmstrong@graceriverforest.org) to be included on the published prayer list.

Confidential prayer chain: please contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) to be added to the confidential prayer chain if you have private concerns.



GRACE CHURCH & SCHOOL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023, After worship



The annual Grace Church and School picnic is just around the corner! Join us after the worship service on Sunday, September 10 for food, fellowship and fun in Fellowship Hall and take advantage of the many opportunities to serve as a volunteer. School families are encouraged to participate! The links to RSVP and volunteer at the picnic are available on Grace Links.

For questions, please email Julie Hinz at jhinz@graceriverforest.org.